

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 PC-01 MCT-01 HA-05
AID-05 CCO-00 FBOE-00 OC-06 OPR-02 USSS-00 CA-01
A-01 SCS-06 OMB-01 SY-05 EB-08 COME-00 /124 W
-----058338 181435Z /72

O 181345Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6868
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
47*HLC/AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE 0673
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 1523

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, CD
SUBJECT: SECURITY SITUATION: SITREP 2

SUMMARY: GOC HAS PUBLISHED COMMUNIQUE ACCUSING
FORLINAT OF UNILATERAL VIOLATION OF THE CEASE FIRE BY ATTACK
ON SALAL (REFTEL NDJAMENA 1506). GOVERNMENT HAS SENT
MESSAGES TO THREE CEASE FIRE SUPERVISORY STATES AND
OAU. RELIEF COLUMN NOW REPORTEDLY HALF WAY TO SALAL. SECOND
FORLINAT ATTACK LAUNCHED AGAINST GOC GARRISON AT ARADA.

1. IN A RADIO BROADCAST COMMUNIQUE LAST NIGHT,
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THE CSM SET FORTH ITS CASE TO LOCAL PUBLIC OPINION
THAT THE GOUKOUNI FORLINAT FACTION HAD VIOLATED THE
CEASE-FIRE SINCE ITS INCEPTION BY CONTINUING
HOSTILE PROPAGANDA ATTACKS AND NOW HAD CAPPED ITS
VILLAINY BY LAUNCHING AN UNPROVOKED ATTACK APRIL 15
AGAINST THE ARMY GARRISON AT SALAL IN THE KANEM. THE
COMMUNIQUE ALSO CONFIRMED RUMORS THAT THE GOC

HAD CONTACTED THE GOVERNMENTS OF NIGER, LIBYA AND SUDAN AS WELL AS OAU PRESIDENT BONGO TO INFORM THEM OF THE CEASE-FIRE VIOLATION AND ASK FOR THEIR INTERVENTION TO RESOLVE THE CRISIS. THE CONCLUDING SENTENCE OF THE COMMUNIQUE MAKES IT EVIDENT THAT THE GOC IS NOT MERELY AWAITING A NEGOTIATE SOLUTION, BUT DOES NOT PROVIDE ANY DETAILS TO THE CHADIAN PUBLIC.

2. FIGHTING REPORTEDLY CONTINUES AT SALAL WITH GOC FORCES REMAINING IN THE AREA TO RIPOSTE AGAINST THE FORLINAT GROUP WHICH CAPTURED THIS OUTPOST. LOCAL GUESSTIMATES PLACE THE FROLINAT ATTACKING FORCE AT LESS THAN 400 MEN, BUT THIS REMAINS UNCERTAIN INFORMATION. CASUALTIES FROM INITIAL FIGHTING WERE BELIEVED TO BE ABOUT 20 DEAD ON EACH SIDE. THE RELIEF COLUMN FROM MOUSSORO HAD MADE ONLY 83 KMS PROGRESS BY MID-AFTERNOON YESTERDAY AND THE GOING CONTINUES TO BE SLOW BECAUSE OF REPEATED FLAT TIRES ON THE 7 AML'S AND OTHER WHEELED VEHICLES.

3. A NEW ATTACK HAS BEEN LAUNCHED ON ARADA, 150 KMS NORTH OF ABECHÉ. THE 100 MAN GARRISON OF THE NOMAD GUARD CONTINUES TO HOLD THE POST AND A RELIEF COLUMN OF CHADIANS ONLY IS ON ITS WAY FROM ABECHÉ. IT IS SUPPOSED THAT THE ATTACKING FORCES HERE, AS AT SALAL, ARE OF THE FROLINAT GROUP RESPONSIVE TO LIBYA
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AND/OR GOUKOINI.

4. LOCAL SOURCES HAVE STATED THAT THREE FRENCH JAGUAR AIRCRAFT ARE ANTICIPATED TO ARRIVE HERE. USDAO/ABIDJAN HAS REPORTED THE PRESENCE OF FOUR OF THESE AIRCRAFT. DATT/NDJAMENA (MESSAGE NO. 0181200XZ APR 78) HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT THE JAGUARS WILL REMAIN IN ABIDJAN AS A QUICK REACTION FORCE.

5. COMMENT. TWO WIDELY DISPERSED ATTACKS AT OPPOSITE ENDS OF THE COUNTRY GIVE RISE TO SPECULATION AS TO WHAT COMES NEXT. THE MOST PROBABLE SCENARIO, ACCORDING TO SOME OBSERVERS, IS A CONCERTED DRIVE AGAINST ABECHÉ SINCE IT PROVIDES THE MOST EXPOSED HIGH IMPACT TARGET. THERE ARE 60 FRENCH MILITARY THERE, HOWEVER, AND PRESENT THINKING IS THAT THE FRENCH FORCES WOULD BE INCREASED IN AN EFFORT TO MAINTAIN THE ANNOUNCED DEFENSIVE LINE (CORDON SANITAIRE). URBAN TERRORISM PROVIDES ANOTHER AVENUE BY WHICH THE REBELS COULD GREATLY INCREASE PRESSURE AGAINST THE GOC AND SPECULATION IN THE CITY OF NDJAMENA IS RIFE TO THE POINT WHERE ILL-FOUNDED RUMORS HAVE CIRCULATED ABOUT THE INCEPTION

OF FIVE TRUCK LOADS OF ARMED MEN AT THE
CHAGOUA BRIDGE. THERE IS NOTHING NEW ON THIS SCORE
AND THE POSSIBILITY OF URBAN TERRORISM HAS LONG EXISTED,
BEING BRUITED ABOUT NOISILY FOR THE LAST YEAR. THE EMBASSY
NONETHELESS IS REVIEWING ITS SECURITY PROCEDURES.
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Message Attributes

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Subject: SECURITY SITUATION: SITREP 2 SUMMARY: GOC HAS PUBLISHED COMMUNIQUE ACCUSING FORLINAT OF UNILATERAL VIOLATION OF THE CEASE FIRE
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To: STATE ABIDJAN
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